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REMARKS

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The Examiner identified four distinct inventions in the present application. Applicant

provisionally elects Claims 1-8 of Group I. This election is made with traverse in that claim 9 has been amended to bring it into the Group I set of claims and so Applicant respectfully requests that the elected set of claims include all of claims 1-9, as amended.

Initially, it is noted that the Examiner classified originally filed claim 9 in the classification as she applied to claims 1-8. Claim 9 has been amended to include four process steps as recited in independent claim 1. While there are differences between claims 1 and 9, as amended, the two methods each include the principal ingredients of a protein, a carotenoid, a source of metal ions and heating of the mixture and so are believed to be directed to a single inventive concept.

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

December 23, 2003

Date

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